

We must do more and focus more attention on the intelligence resources that may help detect potential terrorist attacks before they can be consummated. We should take up and pass President Clinton's anti-terrorism proposals. We should determine what additional tools the FBI and other law enforcement agencies may need to carry out their missions.

We should examine proposals for improved visa tracking of overseas visitors to the United States, so that those who overstay their visa time cannot simply vanish into society without a trace. We should take steps to alter our asylum procedures, so that those legitimately seeking political refuge can be admitted, while those using asylum backlogs as a pretext are not allowed to stay indefinitely, but let us remember, as well, that this tragedy was not the work of overseas terrorists, but of Americans, people who enjoyed the great freedom our Nation offers.

We have become accustomed to seeing terrorist attacks in other parts of the world—Bosnia, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America. Americans have seen hundreds of smoke-stained people streaming out of the World Trade Center Buildings in New York City. In response, we have been quick to explain that the causes are nationalism, or religious fanaticism, or some other belief system with which Americans have nothing in common.

Americans have always been quick to seek reasons to explain what happens in the world around them. But there are events so monstrous, so evil, that they cannot be explained away. No human reasons can account for the minds that could conceive, or the hands that could carry out, this deed.

Nevertheless, it is natural and healthy for each of us to question and try to understand how this could have happened, and to think—beyond laws—about what we as a society might do to reverse the trends of violence and intolerance in America.

It is imperative that we find ways for Americans from diverse backgrounds with sometimes very divergent points of view to live harmoniously.

The first step toward that goal is for us to talk to each other. We must find better ways to do that. We must restore civility to private, and especially public, discourse. We should not permit our political or racial or ethnic or other differences to blind us to each other's truths.

If we listen to one another, we are likely to find our differences are not as great as some of the intemperate rhetoric makes them appear. We are likely to remember that what divides us is much less important than what unites us as a nation. We will never eliminate all our differences, but we will learn that we can live with them.

Each of us—as parents, neighbors, teachers, elected officials, candidates for office, journalists—has an affirmative responsibility to promote that kind of environment.

The bombing in Oklahoma City is the result of evil, misguided people. We do not yet know what their motivation was; we can only speculate. But we can ask ourselves if our increasingly hateful public discourse is falling on ears receptive to hate, if it is providing a context for hands ready to undertake hateful acts.

No one believes that the actions of any man are the fault of the speech of another, but people are inspired and uplifted by words and ideas. We saw that at the memorial service in Oklahoma City. Words and ideas can and do inspire and uplift. But they can mislead and delude. All of us who speak and act in the public arena have an obligation to bear that in mind, for every time we speak, in effect, we are making a choice about what kind of environment we promote. The privilege of serving our community carries with it the obligation not to damage that community.

Americans now can and must do what earlier generations of Americans have done. We must mourn with the families of victims and pray for all the shattered lives and hopes. We must identify changes in the law that have the promise of making us safer. And we must continue to live our lives, saddened by the enormous loss, but rededicated to the social contract that binds us together and allows all of us from different backgrounds, with different ideas, to live together in peace.

#### CONDEMNING THE BOMBING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). Under the previous order, the hour of 12 noon having arrived, the Senate will now proceed to consideration of Senate Resolution 110, which the clerk will report. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to vote on the resolution. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 110) expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the bombing in Oklahoma City.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. LOTT. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] are necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

#### YEAS—97

Abraham	Feingold	McCain
Akaka	Feinstein	McConnell
Ashcroft	Ford	Mikulski
Baucus	Frist	Moseley-Braun
Bennett	Glenn	Moynihan
Biden	Gorton	Murkowski
Bingaman	Graham	Murray
Bond	Gramm	Nickles
Boxer	Grams	Nunn
Bradley	Grassley	Packwood
Breaux	Gregg	Pell
Brown	Hatch	Pressler
Bryan	Heflin	Pryor
Bumpers	Helms	Reid
Burns	Hollings	Robb
Byrd	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Campbell	Inhofe	Roth
Chafee	Inouye	Santorum
Coats	Johnston	Sarbanes
Cochran	Kassebaum	Shelby
Cohen	Kempthorne	Simon
Conrad	Kennedy	Simpson
Coverdell	Kerrey	Smith
Craig	Kerry	Snowe
D'Amato	Kohl	Specter
Daschle	Kyl	Stevens
DeWine	Lautenberg	Thomas
Dodd	Leahy	Thompson
Dole	Levin	Thurmond
Domenici	Lieberman	Warner
Dorgan	Lott	Wellstone
Exon	Lugar	
Faircloth	Mack	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Harkin Hatfield Jeffords

So the resolution (S. Res. 110) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

[Senate Resolution 110 was not available for printing. It will appear in a future issue of the RECORD.]

#### RECESS UNTIL 2:15 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m., whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. KYL].

#### COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY AND LEGAL REFORM ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Gorton amendment No. 596, in the nature of a substitute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.